

REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated September 22, 2004. Claims 1-12 and 14-21 and 23 are presented for examination, of which Claims 1, 7, 9, 12, 17, 19, 21 and 23 are in independent form. Claims 13 and 22 have been cancelled, and the recitations of Claim 13 have been incorporated into its base claim; these actions are taken without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter. Claim 23 has been added to provide Applicant with a more complete scope of protection. Claims 1-12 and 14-21 have been amended to define Applicant's invention more clearly. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

The title has been amended to make it more descriptive. Withdrawal of the objection to the title is therefore respectfully requested.

Applicant notes with appreciation the allowance of Claims 9, 10, 19 and 20, and the indication that Claims 2-8, 11 and 13-18 include allowable subject matter and would be allowable if rewritten in proper independent form. Claims 7 and 17 have been so rewritten, and are believed to be allowable.

Moreover, recitations of Claims 2 that are believed sufficient for patentability have been incorporated into Claim 1, which is accordingly believed to be allowable. Moreover, the recitations of Claim 13 have been incorporated into Claims 12 and 21. New Claim 23 is believed to be allowable for substantially the same reasons as is Claim 17. In addition, Claim 21 has been amended as kindly suggested by the Examiner to ensure that it complies with 35 U.S.C. § 101.

The other claims in this application depend from one or another of the independent claims discussed above and, therefore, are submitted to be patentable for at least the

same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, individual reconsideration of the patentability of each claim on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York Office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Leonard P. Diana", written over a horizontal line.

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